

REMARKS

By the above actions, the specification and claims 4, 5, and 13-16 have been amended. Additionally, appended hereto are Figs. 4 and 5 of replacement drawings in which the reference character **D** has been added. Furthermore, under separate cover, a certified copy of applicant's priority document is being submitted. In view of these actions and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application is now requested. In this regard, the Examiner's indication that all of the claims are patentable over the prior art has been noted with appreciation, and thus, every effort has been made to resolve all of the outstanding formal issues.

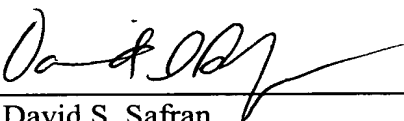
With regard to the rejection of claims 4, 5, 8, 9, and 13-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, the following is noted. Firstly, with regard to claims 4 & 13, no double recitation of "the second roof element could be found." However, since the language used apparently was unclear, it has been modified slightly to make it clear that the connecting rod is coupled to both one of the mechanism connecting rods (the one which is nearer to the second roof element) and to the second roof element. The missing term in claim 5 has been inserted and the dependency of claims 13-16 corrected so that the preamble is now correct. As for claim 8 no change has been made since antecedent basis for "the" slider is present in claim 6 from which it depends, claim 6 reciting in the last two lines that "*a slider* which is located in an area of a contact edge of the other of the roof elements." In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of this rejection is in order and is now requested.

With regard to the objection to the drawings and specification relating to the subject matter of claim 8 concerning the slider being lockable in said inserted and extended positions, it is noted that support for this claim was present in original paragraph [0017] on page 5 of the specification which states in the last sentence thereof that "The displacement of the slider takes place via a separate drive that also produces locking of the slider in the two end positions." This drive was shown in Figs. 4 & 5 of the original drawings but was not identified by reference character. By the above actions, paragraph [0035] of the Detailed Description has been amended to insert the subject matter disclosed in paragraph [0017], supplemented by the inclusion of references to Figs. 4 & 5 and a new reference character **D** that has been added with a lead arrow to the appended replacement sheets of drawings which contain these

figures. Therefore, the objection to the drawings and specification should now be withdrawn and such action is hereby requested.

While the present application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, should the Examiner find some issue to remain unresolved, or should any new issues arise, which could be eliminated through discussions with applicant's representative, then the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone in order that the further prosecution of this application can thereby be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

David S. Safran
Registration No. 27,997

NIXON PEABODY LLP
401 9th Street, N.W.
Suite 900
Washington, D.C. 20004-2128

Telephone: (703) 827-8094

Date: October 27, 2004